

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6:00 P.M., Monday, November 19, 2007
City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara St, 8th Fl, Room T847
San José, CA 95113

MINUTES

1. **Call To Order** - Chair Payne called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Present

Charlie Payne, Chair
Jill Escher
Yolanda Reynolds
Jim Bell
Luis Mendez
Deb Lefferts (for Lane Parker)
Marylou Avanzino
Don Barnett

Staff

Nicholas Rice-Sanchez, CD 6
Steve Wilson, SJIA
John Brazil, DOT

Absent

Corinne Winter
Lawrence deSantis
Bob Halem

Council Liaison

Councilmember Oliverio

Guests

Herman Wadler
David Hoag
Rick Hernandez
Bart Thielges

2. **Approve Order of Business** – Approved.

3. **Oral Petitions** – Mr. Brazil thanked former BPAC member Bart Thielges for his eight years of service on BPAC, including as committee chairperson, and as the City of San José representative on Valley Transportation Authority's countywide BPAC. Mr. Brazil read aloud a thank you letter to Mr. Thielges from Jim Helmer, DOT Director. He also presented Bart with a gift certificate for a local bike shop.

4. **Approve Minutes of September 10, 2007** – Chairperson Payne noted Jim Helmer's name should be added to the list of staff persons present at the September 10, 2007 meeting. Payne moved approval, Reynolds seconded. The motion passed 8-0-0.

5. **New Business**

a. Mineta San José International Airport: Bike/Ped Accommodation – Mr. Brazil introduced Steve Wilson from the San José International Airport (SJIA). Mr. Wilson provided an overview of SJIA expansion plans. The airport identified \$4 billion in possible airport improvements. \$1.5 billion in funding was identified for a two-phase improvement project. The first phase of \$530m was approved in October 2006 and is currently underway. It includes a design-build contract for terminal and roadway improvements. The project will include the following improvements:

sidewalks in the terminal area; partial funding of Guadalupe River Trail in the airport area; bike parking in the terminal area; bike/ped signage improvements; and marked, uncontrolled pedestrian crossings of Airport Boulevard at both Airport Parkway and south of Terminal C. The project will not include bike lanes on Airport Boulevard or the one-way terminal loop. It will not include any controlled or grade-separated pedestrian crossing of Airport Boulevard.

Committee members expressed concerns that the project will not provide safe, functional pedestrian access to the airport. In particular, members asked why neither a signalized pedestrian crossing nor a grade-separate pedestrian crossing will be provided for people to access the airport from east of the Guadalupe River at locations such as Airport Parkway or Skyport Boulevard. They also asked why no sidewalks would be provided on the south end of Airport Boulevard to connect Coleman Avenue with Terminal C. Members asked for information on the traffic modeling tools and assumptions used to conclude that neither a controlled nor a grade separated pedestrian crossing is not needed anywhere on Airport Boulevard. Committee members also asked when detailed design plans would be provided for pedestrian crossing improvements on Airport Boulevard. Committee members also raised questions about bicycle parking, landscaping and ADA access. Comments from members of the public repeated some of these concerns. Councilmember Oliverio suggested shuttle buses as one tool bicyclists and pedestrians can use to access the airport.

Escher moved and Reynolds seconded: BPAC requests SJIA provide BPAC a presentation, with project details and timeline, including: (1) specific detailed drawings of the two proposed Airport Boulevard pedestrian crossings improvements at Airport Parkway and south of Terminal C; (2) information on the proposed bike/ped signage plan that would guide bicyclists and pedestrians to and through the airport area; (3) information on the assumptions and models used to conclude that uncontrolled pedestrian crossings of Airport Boulevard would be adequate; and (4) specific locations where sidewalks currently exist and where they will be installed in the Phase I project. The motion also included a request that copies of the meeting minutes with this motion and vote be given to Directors of both Airport and Transportation departments. After discussion, the motion passed 8-0-0.

6. Old Business

a. Trail Program Update – The City of San José Trail Program Manager will provide an update at BPAC's January 2008 meeting. Councilmember Oliverio reported that City Council has identified partial funding for the potential purchase of the Willow Glen Spur for possible trail development, and that he authored a memo encouraging Council to seek additional funding sources for this project.

b. Ped & ADA Master Plan Update – Mr. Brazil reported that a pre-final draft of the update will be presented to BPAC in early 2008. Earlier in 2007, BPAC received reports on this project in conjunction with public workshops on the project.

c. Crosstown Signed Bikeway Pilot Project – Mr. Brazil reported that the north-south route recommended by BPAC last year will be implemented this fiscal year. If the pilot project is successful, it could lead to the signage of additional crosstown bikeway routes. Mr. Hoag asked if any "before/after" studies would be conducted to determine the success of the program. Mr. Brazil said that could be pursued if volunteers were able to assist.

d. Wrong-Way Signage Pilot Project – Mr. Brazil asked BPAC members for any suggestions for a bike lane corridor to implement this pilot project. The project's goal is to determine whether "Wrong Way" signs will reduce the number of bicyclists riding the wrong way (i.e. against traffic) on-street. The Bike/Ped Program would like to reduce wrong way bicycling because it's a leading factor in bicycle collisions. Committee member Mendez suggested Ocala Road would be a good location.

e. Bike Lane Projects – Mr. Brazil reported that the Bike/Ped Program is considering the installation of bike lanes on segments of the following streets: Aborn, Cunningham, Hostetter, Morrill, Nieman, Ruby, Sierra, and Technology. The program has resources to implement three to four of these projects. He asked BPAC members if they had any preferences. Members expressed interest in each project, and no preferences were stated.

- 7. Staff Report** – Mr. Brazil asked for a volunteer from BPAC to serve as the City of San José's representative on the Valley Transportation Authority's countywide BPAC. BPAC had nominated BPAC member Corinne Winter, but she is unable to accept the nomination. No members volunteered to serve.

Mr. Brazil reported: (1) The Amgen Tour of California (ATOC) will return to San José in 2008 with a Stage 3 finish in downtown San José on February 20, 2008; (2) related to ATOC, San José will once again host a King of the Mountain public bike ride up Sierra Road on February 16, 2007 with proceeds benefiting charity; (3) On May 17-18, 2008, the City of San José will host the inaugural San Jose Cycling Classic, a weekend of bicycling races and events including a criterium race and century ride; (4) Bike to Work Day will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2008; and (5) the Bike/Ped Program will be hiring a part-time intern to conduct field analysis and identify feasible sites to install public bike racks.

- 8. Committee Member Comments** – Committee member Escher asked that (1) Committee members be given copies of the city Bike Map to aid committee discussions; (2) BPAC receive a report on proposed changes to San José's Tree policy; and (3) BPAC receive a report on San José's Traffic Calming program. Committee member Avanzino asked how faded bike lanes are restriped. Mr. Brazil replied that individual requests may be submitted, and that roads are periodically restriped under the Pavement Maintenance program. Member Reynolds asked about a Mayfair Bike/Ped Plan. Mr. Brazil replied that this plan was prepared by an outside agency separate from the City of San José. Member Bell asked if pedestrian signage plans are developed the same way as bicycle signage plans. Mr. Brazil responded that, because pedestrian trip lengths, purposes, and destinations are different from bicyclists, pedestrian signage is often limited to business districts, transit stations, and other popular pedestrian corridors. Chair Payne suggested San José might pursue marking a pedestrian historic route like Boston's Freedom Trail. Mr. Brazil noted that San José has marked pedestrian corridors in the historic downtown area and the Paseo de San Antonio.

Councilmember Oliverio noted that the Mayor's Community Budget meeting on January 19th would provide a good forum for citizens to make suggestions on city programs and services.

- 9. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.